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# Food and Nutrition

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## Food Stamps: Preliminary Injunction; Some Eligibility Standards Increase

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ON JUNE 16, U.S. District Court Judge John Lewis Smith granted a preliminary injunction against implementation of the revised food stamp regulations, issued by FNS on May 7. USDA attorneys are considering an appeal of this decision. The litigation began May 26 when 26 States joined several cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 73 food stamp households, and over 100 civic, labor, religious, and community organizations in bringing suit to block implementation of the regulations.

As a result of the court's decision, the basis-of-issuance standards published with the reform regulations--based on Office of Management and Budget poverty guidelines--were also enjoined from taking effect July 1. However, since the Food Stamp Act requires semi-annual revision of the basis-of-issuance, FNS has issued eligibility standards for July 1 to December 1 based on the USDA poverty guidelines developed for use in the Child Nutrition Programs. Although coupon allotments remain unchanged for the 48 States, eligibility limits for one- and two-person households have increased. The maximum allowable income standard for a one-person household in the 48 States and the District of Columbia increased from \$215 to \$245 per month; and for two-person households, it increased from \$307 to \$322 per month, due to an increase in the USDA poverty guidelines for these households.

Food stamp regulations require the income eligibility level be set at the higher of either (a) the Secretary's income poverty guidelines, or (b) the level at which the coupon allotment equals 30 percent of income. In the case of one- and two-person households, the Secretary's poverty guidelines are the higher figures. The income eligibility levels for all other households remain the same.

Coupon allotments for all household sizes remain the same, reflecting the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan in February 1976, which was unchanged from August 1975. The Food Stamp Act directs that coupon allotments be adjusted twice a year to reflect changes in food prices as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Maximum monthly income eligibility standards, effective July 1, for the 48 States and District of Columbia are:

Household Size	Income Standards
One-person.....	\$245
Two-person.....	322
Three-person.....	433
Four-person.....	553
Five-person.....	660
Six-person.....	787
Seven-person.....	873
Eight-person.....	993
For each additional household member over eight, add \$127.	

# **FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS AND PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS (Effective July 1, 1976)**

48 States and D.C.		Number of Persons in Household:							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Monthly Coupon Allotment:							
		\$50	\$92	\$130	\$166	\$198	\$236	\$262	\$298
Monthly Net Income:		Monthly Purchase Requirement:							
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
0 to	19.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 to	29.99	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 to	39.99	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
40 to	49.99	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
50 to	59.99	8	10	10	10	11	11	12	12
60 to	69.99	10	12	13	13	14	14	15	16
70 to	79.99	12	15	16	16	17	17	18	19
80 to	89.99	14	18	19	19	20	21	21	22
90 to	99.99	16	21	21	22	23	24	25	26
100 to	109.99	18	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
110 to	119.99	21	26	27	28	29	31	32	33
120 to	129.99	24	29	30	31	33	34	35	36
130 to	139.99	27	32	33	34	36	37	38	39
140 to	149.99	30	35	36	37	39	40	41	42
150 to	169.99	33	38	40	41	42	43	44	45
170 to	189.99	38	44	46	47	48	49	50	51
190 to	209.99	38	50	52	53	54	55	56	57
210 to	229.99	40	56	58	59	60	61	62	63
230 to	249.99	40	62	64	65	66	67	68	69
250 to	269.99		68	70	71	72	73	74	75
270 to	289.99		72	76	77	78	79	80	81
290 to	309.99		72	82	83	84	85	86	87
310 to	329.99		72	88	89	90	91	92	93
330 to	359.99			94	95	96	97	98	99
360 to	389.99			102	104	105	106	107	108
390 to	419.99			111	113	114	115	116	117
420 to	449.99			112	122	123	124	125	126
450 to	479.99				131	132	133	134	135
480 to	509.99				140	141	142	143	144
510 to	539.99				142	150	151	152	153
540 to	569.99				142	159	160	161	162
570 to	599.99					168	169	170	171
600 to	629.99					170	178	179	180
630 to	659.99					170	187	188	189
660 to	689.99					170	196	197	198
690 to	719.99						204	206	207
720 to	749.99						204	215	216
750 to	779.99						204	224	225
780 to	809.99						204	226	234
810 to	839.99							226	243
840 to	869.99							226	252
870 to	899.99								258
900 to	1019.99								258

For each additional household member over eight, add \$38 to the monthly coupon allotment for an eight-person household.



The table on page 2 gives coupon allotments and purchase requirements for all household sizes in the 48 States and the District of Columbia. The tables were published in the Federal Register July 2. Tables for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are based on the table for the continental United States, adjusted for differences in the cost of food in these areas. These tables were also printed in the July 2 Federal Register.

### ELIMINATION OF VOUCHERS PROPOSED

STATE AGENCIES would not be able to authorize the acceptance of vouchers as payment for food stamps after April 30, 1977, under a proposed amendment to food stamp program regulations. FNS is considering comments on the proposal, published in the May 18 Federal Register. The April 30, 1977 deadline would give State agencies sufficient time to phase out voucher programs. Local agencies could use alternative methods to assist households in paying for food stamps.

### COMMENTS INVITED ON TWO OTHER PROPOSALS

FNS IS STILL accepting comments on two other proposed changes in food stamp regulations.

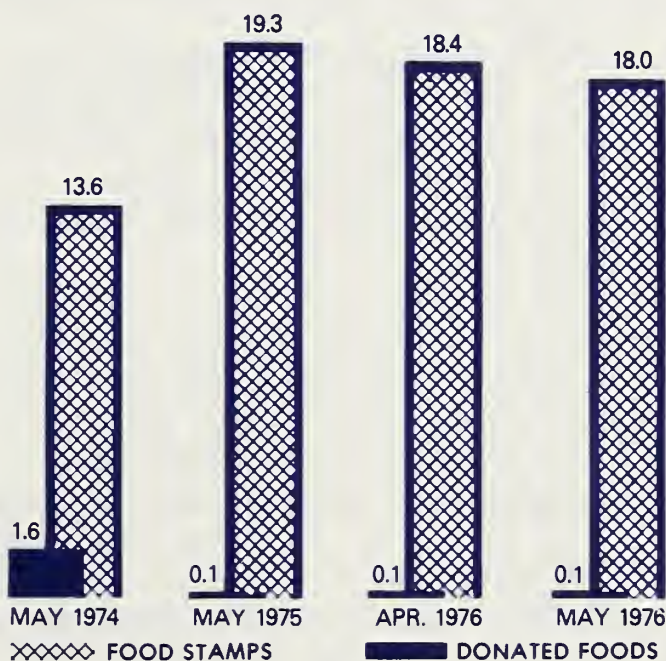
One proposal would permit the testing of new administrative procedures, including the use of photo identification cards for food stamp recipients. This testing would allow test projects to be conducted on a small scale for possible national applicability. The proposed amendment appeared in the Federal Register on June 11. The comment period ends July 26.

The second proposal would allow State agencies to purchase, without prior USDA approval, equipment or facilities costing up to \$2,500, provided these purchases are necessary for program operations and reasonable in cost. States would need authorization from FNS before

purchasing equipment, facilities, and other capital assets costing more than \$2,500. Under current regulations, only purchases up to \$300 are exempted from the prior approval requirement. The proposal appeared in the July 9 Federal Register, and August 9 is the deadline for public comment.

### FAMILY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

(Millions of Participants)



### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

(Millions of Participants)





Comments on these proposals should be sent to: Nancy Snyder, Director, Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

### DISASTER REGULATIONS REVIEWED

FNS IS CONSIDERING comments on a proposed regulation that would clarify USDA's responsibility for distributing foods for emergency mass feeding, in the event of a Presidentially-declared major disaster or emergency. Under the proposed regulation, FNS would distribute USDA foods for disaster feeding only when the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration of the Department of Housing and Urban Development affirms that local agencies or organizations cannot handle victims' needs through their emergency feeding programs. The proposal appeared in the Federal Register June 11.

### NEW INCOME POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

ON JUNE 14, FNS announced new income poverty guidelines for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk under the child nutrition programs.

The new guidelines apply to schools and institutions that participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast

Programs, the Child Care Food Program, the Special Milk Program, or that receive federally-donated foods. The guidelines are in effect from July 1, 1976, to June 30, 1977. They have been increased about 14 percent over last year's guidelines and reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index from 1974 through April 1976.

Income poverty guidelines take into account both family size and income. Based on these guidelines, each State's education agency issues its own guidelines for determining whether children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk. The cut-off level for determining eligibility for reduced-price meals must be set by States at 95 percent above the national income poverty guidelines. When establishing eligibility standards for free meals and milk, however, States have the option of setting the level up to 25 percent above the national income poverty guidelines.

The following chart lists the income poverty guidelines for July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977 for the 48 States, the District of Columbia, and the Trust Territories excluding Guam. The chart also shows the figures for guideline levels when increased by 25 percent and 95 percent.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Secretary's Guidelines</u>	<u>Increased by 25 percent</u>	<u>Increased by 95 percent</u>
1	\$ 2,940	\$ 3,680	\$ 5,730
2	3,860	4,830	7,530
3	4,780	5,980	9,320
4	5,700	7,130	11,110
5	6,550	8,190	12,770
6	7,390	9,240	14,410
7	8,160	10,200	15,910
8	8,920	11,150	17,390
9	9,610	12,010	18,740
10	10,300	12,870	20,090
11	10,990	13,730	21,430
For each additional family member	690	860	1,340



## **WIC REGULATIONS REVISED**

ON JUNE 1, FNS amended the interim regulations for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children to give areas with the highest levels of infant mortality, low birth weight, and low income the first opportunity to start new programs. Public Law 94-105 requires affirmative action to ensure that WIC programs are begun in areas most in need of supplemental food aid. The interim regulations, in effect since January 8, 1976, formerly required States to give first consideration for new programs to areas wishing to terminate the Supplemental Food Program or the Pilot Food Certificate Program.

The regulation change is in line with public comments received after the interim regulations were published in the Federal Register on January 12.

## **LUNCH CHANGES GO INTO EFFECT**

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL students will be allowed to choose less than the complete Type A lunch as a result of recent school lunch program changes. The students must accept a minimum of three of the five Type A items; however, the lunch will be priced as a unit. This change became effective June 8, along with two other changes:

- Butter and fortified margarine are eliminated as a separate requirement for school lunches.

- The basic Federal commitment to assist schools in providing one lunch per day per child is clarified. When schools prepare excess lunches due to fluctuations in participation, they may serve "seconds" to eligible children.

## **APPLICATION FORMS**

### **WILL INCLUDE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE**

AN ACCOUNTABILITY statement must now be included on applications for free and reduced-price meals served under the National School Lunch and School Break-

fast Programs, and for free milk served under the Special Milk Program. The statement has been added to stress accountability and provide complete information to potential recipients regarding Federal and State assistance.

Previously, a statement certifying the correctness of all information by the applicant had been required on application forms. Amended regulations require the forms to further emphasize the recipient's responsibility when applying.

## **AMENDMENTS REVISE DISTRIBUTION OF USDA FOODS**

SEVERAL NEW AMENDMENTS have been issued to regulations governing the distribution of USDA foods for use in child nutrition programs. Effective upon publication in the Federal Register June 18, the changes are in line with provisions of Public Law 94-105:

- Residential public or nonprofit private child care institutions will now be considered as "schools" participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. They may now receive the full array of foods distributed to schools taking part in child nutrition programs, rather than the more limited variety provided to institutions.

- Nonresidential institutions providing food service to children under the Summer Food Service Program and the Child Care Food Program will now receive USDA food donations. Under the Child Care Food Program, a State may receive cash instead of donated foods.

- At least 75 percent of USDA commodity assistance to school lunch programs will now be in the form of donated foods. Previously, the National School Lunch Act set a specific commodity assistance level of 10 cents per lunch, to be provided either in commodities or cash, but specified no minimum level for donated foods.



## TRIBUTE TO SCHOOL LUNCH

ON JUNE 4, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz paid tribute to the 30th anniversary of the National School Lunch Act. In a statement issued in observance of the event, he said:

"On June 4, 1946, the National School Lunch Act established as national policy the safeguarding of the health and well-being of America's children by assisting States in developing nonprofit school lunch programs. Since then, the program has been expanded to include 93 percent of the children enrolled in public schools--the largest program of its kind in the world. This program demonstrates the continuing commitment of this Nation to its most precious resource, our children."

To commemorate both the school lunch program's 30th anniversary and America's 200th anniversary, FNS, State departments of education, and the American

School Food Service Association have joined in leadership of a Child Nutrition Bicentennial Project. As part of the project, persons who have worked in school food service for the past 30 years are getting special recognition. State scrolls containing the names of the 30-year awardees and individual certificates will be presented to ASFSA State directors and chairpersons at the annual meeting of the American School Food Service Association in Hawaii August 1-5.

## ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET

THE NEXT MEETING of the National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition will be in Hawaii August 2-3. The agenda includes discussions on the Washington State Study, the nutritional basis for child nutrition meal patterns, the administration of programs in private schools and institutions, and the 1976 Summer Food Service Program. The Advisory Council meeting is open to the public.

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## NEW RELEASES

- "School Breakfast Menu Planning Guide" (FNS-7), is a revised guide for food service supervisors and managers participating in the School Breakfast Program. It lists the required portions of specific food groups that must be included in each breakfast, gives sample breakfast menus for schools with and without cooking facilities, and offers management guidelines for planning and evaluating school breakfasts.

*This publication is available from the Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.*

- "Tips for Tellers" (FNS-141), gives tips for bank employees who process canceled food stamps. The 5-1/4- by 4-inch card is designed to reduce the error rate among bank tellers handling food stamps.

- "Aceptamos Cupones Para Alimentos" (FNS-132-S) is a revised color poster in Spanish for retail grocers. The 12- by 16-1/2-inch poster informs Spanish-speaking clientele that food stamps are accepted by the store.

- "Programa de Cupones Para Alimentos, Lista Oficial de Alimentos," (FNS-110-S) is a revised poster for store owners. It informs Spanish-speaking recipients what foods they can and cannot buy with food stamps.

- "Food Stamps Make the Difference" (FNS-158), a 14- by 5-1/2-inch poster, is used by welfare offices for outreach purposes.

*These publications are available from the Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.*

